

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

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PICKENS, S. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1902.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

BILL ARP NOW TAKES A REST

He Gives a Parting Shot at the Pickens and Describes a Liar.

Atlanta Constitution.

My special pets, the mothers and children of this blessed land, have been neglected of late, for I have had a time of it in taking care of myself. For a month past I have been perplexed and burdened with a correspondence that I could not avoid. I have answered more than a hundred letters concerning the Monticello fraud, but that trouble is now about over, and once more I am calm and serene. It was a most marvelous enterprise. Nothing equal to it has ever occurred in the South. One woman writes that she has written over eleven hundred letters. The area covered by it and the victims who suffered is astounding. My correspondents are all women, dependent, struggling women, and they flock the land from West Virginia to western Texas. I learn that Monticello has surrendered and assigned, which means, of course, that the army of these agents will have to surrender and be resigned. Blessed are they who expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed.

Just now there seems to be a lull in the excitement that have agitated the press and the public for some time past. The negro has almost retired from discussion and is the same uncontented creature he has always been. Professor Stone, who has been studying them in Mississippi, says that in the delta where they constitute 87 per cent of the population they are more contented, more industrious and more law-abiding than in any region that he has visited. Maybe Bishop Turner is right and they can take care of themselves if left to themselves. But my philosophy is, let the problem alone any let it work out its own solution. It may take twenty years, it may take fifty, but it will solve itself.

Politics, too, is somewhat tired and in a dormant condition. The country has ceased to make much ado over the antics and romances of the new President and is just waiting to see what he will do next. He is a Sphinx. He is going to do what he thinks is right, but the trouble is he thinks wrong too often. He is what you might call finicky. When a man is finicky, he is finicky—that's all. The word is not in the dictionary and has no definition. Finicky is finicky.

Well, our State politics has subsided for a time. The pot boiled over at first, but has simmered down and we are not making as many Governors and other officers as we did before Christmas. I don't feel very anxious about the next Governor, for with those who are in the field we can't hardly make a mistake. As Col. Dantzler would say, "It's all optional with me." There is nothing left hardly to fuss and fume about except the Atlanta depot. This is enduring stock. I have not been to Atlanta since last March and I am not going until they build a new depot. Nevertheless, we still have the usual amount of horrors and wrecks and homicides. It takes all the big type to keep the head lines going. Forty years ago there never was a displayed head line nor the picture of a woman in a newspaper. The Richmond Whig and The National Intelligencer did not even have a caption to their editorials. You had to read it to find out what the article was about. Now we glance at the heading and read nothing else and as for the pictures we old men can't tell the difference between Lydia Pinkham and the belle of Frogtown.

But the mothers and their children are still left us. I was ruminating about the books we boys had to read in the old time and how they had disappeared and gone out of print. There was the "Arabian Nights" and "Robinson Crusoe" and "Gulliver's Travels" and "Baron Munchausen"—all were made up lies, but the bigger the lies the better we liked them, for children are imaginative, and the little stories of "Jack the Giant Killer" and "Jack and the Bean Vine" and "Cinderella" have to be told over and over again to the little ones before they go to bed. There are two little ones that I have to put to sleep many a night repeating these same old stories. But the "Baron Munchausen" type of lies passed away, although it went through many editions and I have seen nothing like it until recently, when I received a little book called, "I'm Something of a Liar Myself," published in London and New York, and manufactured by Baron DeVore, of Edgefield, S. C. I think he is a honest descendant of Munchausen, and has improved upon his great ancestor. It seems that he fell in with a dwarf in Kansas City, whose name was Ran. This Ran had lived nine years on the banks of the Amazon river and told Baron DeVore how the ammonia of that region produced forests of great trees that were two or three thousand feet high and big round in proportion. He says it took him eleven days and six hours and thirty-nine minutes to walk around one of them. Ran says the ammonia dwarfed him. It enlarged his head and lengthened his feet, but shrank up his shanks and neck. He wore a No. 10 hat and No. 7 collar. His feet were 18 inches long and flattened like a duck's bill and his legs about the size of a hoe handle. His neck grew long on purpose, for the soil was so soft an ordinary foot would have sunk down in it.

Everybody knows him in Kansas City and it is dangerous to doubt or dispute his stories. Ran says that some of these trees are awfully crooked and no day he came across one that had fallen down from old age. It was hollow from the butt to the top and was

A LOVELY COUNTRY PLACE.

New York Millionaire Buys a Winter Home Near Beaufort, S. C.

A correspondent of the New York Herald describes a splendid country estate near Beaufort which Mr. R. T. Wilson, Jr., of New York, has just purchased from Col. J. H. Estill, of Savannah, an island which will be made one of the finest winter homes in the South. The place is known as May River Neck, because it is an elongated island strip between the May and New rivers.

The landing place, leading up to the mansion, is about half way between Savannah and Beaufort, being approximately thirty-five miles from each by water, although an air line from Savannah would be little more than fifteen miles.

The island is the next south of Hilton Head, where one of the government's naval proving stations is situated. Before the war between the States the "Neck" contained the homes and plantations of some of the most famous families of South Carolina—the Pettigrews, Draytons, Hamiltons and others whose names have become associated with the State's history. The battle of Port Royal opened the country to the Federal gunboats, and in less than a month what had been a rich and prosperous planting community, with five thousand slaves to till the land, was abandoned to the invading forces. Then it fell a prey to marauding freedmen. Handsome homes were destroyed or wrecked, and the fields became thickets and forests. It was not until after 1876 that white men again lived on the island. At that time the country had degenerated into almost a wilderness.

As a boy, long before the war, Colonel Estill had resided for a time on May River Neck. It was then that he conceived a desire to be the owner of one of the fine plantations. When he had returned home from the war, a penniless former Confederate, the desire was still with him. When he began to prosper in the publishing business in Savannah, among his first investments was the purchase of a plantation on May River. From time to time he added other plantations to his holdings on the Neck, until eventually he had secured fifteen thousand acres which he has transferred to Mr. Wilson.

There was much sentiment in Colonel Estill's gathering of the land piece-meal. He had an ideal seacoast home and plantation in view. He succeeded in bringing under his ownership one of the finest properties of its kind in the world, upon which he erected a mansion in keeping with the extent and importance of the estate. It is this mansion which Mr. Wilson is having refurnished for occupancy early in February. It is understood that he, accompanied by his sister, Mrs. Vanderbilt, and a few friends, will arrive at the May River place during the latter part of this month or the first of next.

Mr. Wilson's plans, as far as they can be learned, are broad and ambitious. One of the first improvements to be made will be the construction of an automobile road to Hardeeville, the nearest railroad station, nine miles distant. In addition, a long distance telephone line is being built from the plantation to Hardeeville, which will put Mr. Wilson into telephonic communication with Savannah and Charleston. An electric lighting apparatus and pumping plant is also being put in.

It is said to be the purpose of Mr. Wilson to retain 5,000 acres of the plantation for hunting. It is magnificently wooded and game is plentiful. The fishing, too, is exceptionally fine. On one side of the island is a salt river from which practically every species of fish from the ocean may be taken, while on the other side is a fresh water river abounding in fish. Thus the owner has only to go north or south across his acres to take either salt or fresh water fish at his pleasure. The May River is a deep stream, and it will be possible for Mr. Wilson, or Mr. Vanderbilt, or any guest, to sail up to the landing, within a few hundred yards of the mansion, in his ocean-going yacht.

Besides the forest land, the eleven plantations which make up Mr. Wilson's purchase embrace some of the best sea island cotton land in the world. The soil will produce just about any product that may be grown in the temperate zone, and, being near the ocean and entirely surrounded by water, it is peculiarly free from killing frosts. Thus crops are almost certain, even in seasons when new vegetation is killed on the mainland by cold snaps.

It is said to be Mr. Wilson's intention to divide the 10,000 acres remaining after setting off his shooting preserve, into farms of approximately fifty acres each, and to bring in German farmers or other thrifty white settlers to till them.

The idea seems to be to construct a model farm village as near the center of the tract as may be convenient. The village will have its school, church and library, besides other municipal accessories. Whether Mr. Wilson will own the houses or permit them to be owned independently has not yet been determined. The details are to be worked out later. It is said to be his purpose, however, to encourage the cultivation of sea island cotton and rice, and he may give some attention to fine cattle. The ranges on the island are exceptionally fine, with canebrakes rich and green the year round. It is understood further that Mr. Wilson will give some attention to fine poultry.

The mansion is one of the handsomest in the seacoast section of the South.

THE SURPLUS IN TREASURY

The Republican Leaders Are Puzzled What to do With It.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Record says that the problem of the surplus in the treasury continues to be a source of serious discussion among the administration leaders in Congress.

A ray of hope that the surplus might be kept under control has been afforded by the range of receipts and expenditures thus far this month. Receipts have been about \$1,000,000 less than for the same period last year, and expenditures have been a trifle more. This has contributed to reduce the excess of receipts for the first 18 days of January from \$3,969,542 last year to \$2,593,049 this year.

This chance is too small to be accepted as yet as a serious indication of the exhibit for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is believed, however, that the treasury that the surplus during the remainder of the year ending on June 30 next will probably not be any larger than for the same period of 1901.

There has been an increase of the surplus thus far during the fiscal year from \$22,517,247 last year to \$15,214,946 this year. The reason for expecting a check to this increase is the fact that army and navy expenditures first began to drop back toward their normal figures before the Spanish war at the beginning of last year.

These expenditures are still much larger than when the army contained only 27,000 men, but they are distinctly less than during the war and during the many months when contracts growing out of the war were still being settled at the treasury. Military expenditures are approaching, although it has not quite reached the normal basis of a peace establishment of about 75,000 regular troops. There will not be, therefore, the same decline in military expenditures, during the next six months, in comparison with the previous year.

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It is anticipated that the taxes levied by the War Revenue Act of 1898 will be for the most part repealed, but there may be some question in regard to the increase on beer and the import duty levied on tea. A reduction of nearly \$10,000,000 will be made in the annual revenue if a concession of 50 per cent is made on Cuban sugar entering the United States, but this will contribute only a small fraction of the desired reduction in the revenue.

The great cost of transporting timber from the forests of the Northwest by vessel to the west coast of America has caused experiments to be made at various times of transporting timber in bulk. The rafts are cigar shaped, built in a central hulk, and secured by chains every twelve feet. The whole raft is about 400 feet in length, made up of 80-foot logs, and being 30 feet in diameter, it would take the full capacity of a dozen ordinary vessels to carry as much timber as there is in such a raft.

Charles Bellamy, a Burlington railroad fireman, in eleven years of faithful service, has traveled 607,540 miles and shoveled 32,501 tons of coal on the way. He never lost a trip or received a scratch, through accident. Railroad men say that it is a case of physical endurance never equalled.



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It is only about two hundred yards from the water front. The marine view from the piazzas is especially attractive. The water supply is from an artesian well, and is pure and cold.

In the orchards which surround the place are bearing fruit trees, figs, plums, peaches, persimmons and pears. The carriage house, stable, servants' house and keeper's house and the bowling alley are not far from the residence. At a convenient distance from the mansion there are a saw mill, grist mill, repair shop, stables and stock houses.

Should Mr. Wilson put his model farm village idea to the test, he will have an ideal situation in which to exploit it. Midway between two cities, in each of which there are steamship lines to the North, and with a steamboat line to Savannah, there will be no lack of markets for produce. And the place is just enough isolated to prevent the settlers from being distracted by any possible political or other conditions that might tend to annoy them.

SOUTHERN GROWTH.—In the current number of The Chattanooga Tradesman appears an editorial on Southern growth which discloses an exceedingly gratifying condition of things in this section, considering the adverse circumstances which we have been called upon to face in recent years. Among other things contained in the article we quote the following paragraphs:

"In the twenty years, ended September 1 last, the South produced \$6,679,967,888 worth of cotton. On an average three-fourths of the year's crop was sold abroad, or say \$1,300,000,000 value exported. In 1900 the South sold to Europe, of raw cotton, nearly \$300,000,000 worth and exported fully \$200,000,000 of other products, including timber, lumber, iron, steel, cotton fabrics, etc. The South is beginning to do its full share, and it will do more.

"It comes out of the old year in high credit, with good prospects and a willing mind for the work before it. These people are more and more satisfied with their efforts at development, as the years go by, and they have a right to be. Making allowance for what they had to contend with, the Southern people have done exceedingly well. They are now pretty independent. They have four-fifths of the world's supply of cotton, and will have indefinitely. What the section doesn't produce it will have the means to buy. The South is less loaded with mortgage debt than any other part of the country. The farms are generally free of debt, and this condition of agricultural independence becomes more marked yearly. A country thus conditioned is not disturbed by the criticism of communities that have had greater opportunities, and are inclined to look down on those whose lines have fallen in less prosperous places, or have only well begun the work of building their industrial system."

San Francisco Chronicle: During the voyage of the steamer New England, which arrived the other morning at Vancouver from the northern fishing grounds, a most peculiar phenomenon was observed by the crew. On Tuesday, just after midnight, Captain Freeman, the pilot, was astonished to see a clearly defined rainbow from horizon to horizon lying to the northwest of the New England's position. A stiff gale of wind was blowing at the time, and the moon was up, and though its face was frequently obscured for minutes at a time by black clouds, the rainbow colors showed no evidence of fading, even when the moon was entirely obscured. For half an hour the rainbow was in plain view, and then it began gradually to fade away from the eastern end.

Cholly—What was the result of your interview with Miss Bullen's father last night? Percy—It was a walk-over for me. Cholly—Ah! Allow me to congratulate you. Percy—Don't do it. The old man simply walked all over me.—Chicago News.

She: "And I am really and truly the first girl you ever kissed?" He: "Yes, you doubt it, darling?" She: "Yes, your manner savors of long experience." He: "How do you know it does?"

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Pickens, S. C.

Offers his services to the general public. All work guaranteed. His references are those for whom he has done work and the work itself, whom and which can be seen in the towns of Pickens, Easley, and all over Pickens county. He will do well to see him before using a trade elsewhere. oct1

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